

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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Ann Block,

Plaintiff,

v.

Health Plan of Nevada,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-00781-APG-BNW

ORDER

Plaintiff brings this lawsuit and moves to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP). *See* ECF No. 4. Plaintiff submitted the affidavit required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) showing an inability to prepay fees or costs or give security for them. Accordingly, the Court will grant her request to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court now screens Plaintiff's complaint (ECF No. 1-1).

I. Analysis

A. Screening standard

Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must screen the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). In screening the complaint, a court must identify cognizable claims and dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim on which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Dismissal for failure to state a claim under § 1915(e)(2) incorporates the standard for failure to state a claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). *Watison v. Carter*, 668 F.3d 1108, 1112 (9th Cir. 2012). To survive § 1915 review, a complaint must "contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). The court liberally construes pro se complaints and may only dismiss them "if it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief." *Nordstrom v. Ryan*, 762 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2014) (*quoting Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678).

1 In considering whether the complaint is sufficient to state a claim, all allegations of
2 material fact are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. *Wylar*
3 *Summit P'ship v. Turner Broad. Sys. Inc.*, 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir. 1998) (citation omitted).
4 Although the standard under Rule 12(b)(6) does not require detailed factual allegations, a plaintiff
5 must provide more than mere labels and conclusions. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S.
6 544, 555 (2007). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action is insufficient. *Id.*
7 Unless it is clear the complaint's deficiencies could not be cured through amendment, a pro se
8 plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with notice regarding the complaint's
9 deficiencies. *Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

10 **B. Screening the Complaint**

11 Plaintiff filed a letter explaining she is appealing a decision made by Health Plan of
12 Nevada regarding her health benefits. The Court construes the letter as a complaint. Plaintiff also
13 included attachments of different printouts and letters. But even liberally construing Plaintiff's
14 complaint, it does not state sufficient factual allegations about the underlying dispute and
15 Defendant's role in the matter to state a claim. That is, the Court cannot discern what the cause of
16 action is against health Plan of Nevada. Moreover, it is not clear to the Court what mechanism
17 allows Plaintiff to forgo an internal appeal with Health Plan of Nevada and/or to file an appeal of
18 their decision in federal court.

19 If Plaintiff chooses to file an amended complaint, the document must be titled "Amended
20 Complaint." The amended complaint must contain a short and plain statement of the grounds for
21 the Court's jurisdiction. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 8(a)(1). Additionally, the amended complaint must
22 contain a short and plain statement describing the underlying case and the defendants'
23 involvement in the case. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 8(a)(2). Although the Federal Rules of Civil
24 Procedure adopt a flexible pleading standard, Plaintiff still must give each defendant fair notice of
25 his claims against it and of Plaintiff's entitlement to relief.

26 Additionally, Plaintiff is advised that if she files an amended complaint, the original
27 complaint (ECF No. 1-1) no longer serves any function in this case. As such, the amended
28 complaint must be complete in and of itself without reference to prior pleadings or other

1 documents. The Court cannot refer to a prior pleading or other documents to make Plaintiff's
2 amended complaint complete.

3 **II. CONCLUSION**

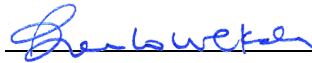
4 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis*
5 (ECF No. 4) is GRANTED.

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court must detach and separately file
7 Plaintiff's complaint (ECF No. 1-1).

8 IT FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

9 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Plaintiff wishes to file an amended complaint, she
10 must do so by June 28, 2024. Failure to comply with this order will result in a recommendation
11 that this case be dismissed.

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13 DATED: May 29, 2024

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16 BREND A WEKSLER
17 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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